

Alnwick Rural District Council

Annual Reports
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND
Public Health Inspector
Year 1957



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council:

It is my pleasure to present to you my third Annual Report, which is for the year 1957.

The mid-year population was 12,470 which is 40 less than the figure for the previous year, although births exceeded deaths by 30.

The births rose by 13 giving a rate of 15.31 per 1000 of the population, which is almost equal to the National Rate. Another rate which has risen is the Stillbirth rate, and this has increased to 40.20 per 1000 live and stillbirths. It is very unsatisfactory and is practically double the rate for the previous year.

On the other hand Infant Mortality fell to the low rate of 10.47 per 1000 live births. (National Rate 23.7).

There was an increase in deaths from 135 in 1956 to 161 in 1957 and this was due to a rise in deaths from cancer and diseases of the heart and circulatory systems. Deaths from cancer rose from 1% to 15% of all deaths and diseases of the heart and circulatory system went up from 56% to 63%. There were 5 deaths from lung cancer (4 males and 1 female) an increase of 3 deaths from this cause, and deaths from cancer of the stomach also increased by 3. The greatest rise in mortality from heart and circulatory diseases was from coronary thrombosis which rose from 19 to 32 and represents 32% of deaths from this group. In contrast the National Death Rate for this cause is given as 16%. The age groups for death from heart and circulatory diseases are shown in Table 3.

Previously I have shown the changing pattern in the prevalence of infectious diseases but this pattern also applies to other diseases. For example, deaths in England and Wales from cardio-vascular, brain and kidney diseases, have risen from 16.9% in 1901 to 51.2% in 1956, and similarly cancer deaths have changed from 5% of total deaths to 17.7%. Much of this change, of course, is due to the change in structure of the population as people are living longer, and also to the lowered mortality due to infection.

Measles continued in character by appearing in epidemic form every two years. There were 164 cases notified against 18 for the previous year and 140 in 1955. Tuberculosis notifications increased slightly and part of this increase was due to the visit of the Mass Miniature X-ray Unit to Alnwick and Amble in June. 1925 people from Alnwick and its environs attended, and at Amble 1010 persons made use of the facilities.

Anti Poliomyelitis vaccinations continued during the year and the demand by parents was very gratifying. 693 children were inoculated by the family doctors, who used the Child Welfare Clinic at Alnwick and Embleton. At Felton clinic, by agreement with the local doctor, I vaccinated the children from this district. Health Visitors assisted at these clinics and the arrangements appeared to work very smoothly indeed. Parents readily accepted the Salk Vaccine for their children. Another pleasing fact was the high immunity index for immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, which remained at 82.7% of children aged between 1 and 5 years. The success of the Poliomyelitis vaccination and Diphtheria/Whooping Cough immunisation programmes was largely due to the efforts of the local doctors and Health Visitors and I am indebted to them.

Slow progress was made in slum clearance although a total of 78 houses were inspected, towards the end of the year, with regard to future action. Improvement grants were again offered, resulting in the improvement of 21 properties.

The adequate provision of public convenience accommodation is a responsibility of all authorities and particularly a concern to rural districts in an area of outstanding beauty. The publicity given recently to the beauty of North Northumberland has attracted many visitors and aggravated a problem which was already pressing. Proper sewerage schemes are still absent in many of our beautiful villages, and to offer visitors, the majority of whom are used to modern sanitation, pail closets and privy middens, is obnoxious, unhygienic and paradoxical.

The cost to the district for the provision of public conveniences and sewerage will be great, but the Council have tackled the problem by recommending the provision of accommodation at Craster, Low Newton-by-the-Sea, Embleton, Boulmer and Low Hauxley; also for the provision of additional accommodation at Alnmouth and Warkworth. The provision of this accommodation at Boulmer and Low Hauxley will be held up by a lack of sewerage.

As stated in my reports submitted to the Council during the year, the need for sewerage at Togston and Boulmer is very urgent indeed, and it is hoped that a start will be made soon in this direction. The position at Radcliffe also gives grounds for concern as the future of the village is so uncertain. Approximately 120 of the houses could be brought up to the required standard if sewerage could be provided, and a scheme was prepared in 1946 which linked High and Low Hauxley with Radcliffe for sewerage. Nuisances are created at Radcliffe and Hauxley by the over flow from septic tanks, draining into ditches which have a poor fall and are repeatedly blocked by an overgrowth of vegetation, and this nuisance will continue to re-occur until a more permanent solution is found.

I must again record my appreciation of the interest and help given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and also my indebtedness to the Clerk, Surveyor and Public Health Inspectors for all the help they have given me.

I am,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

RICHARD SHORT

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the district is 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 4,135 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 21.

102 271

The rateable value is £10,337 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £405.

The estimated mid-year population is 12,470 and this figure is taken when calculating the Birth and Death Rate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	110	78	188
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population	Totals: <u>112</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>191</u> 15.31

Still Births

Legitimate	6	2	8
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	Totals: <u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			40.20

Death Rate of infants under one year

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
All infants (per 1,000 live births)			10.47
Legitimate infants (per 1,000 legitimate live births)			10.63
Illegitimate infants			NIL
Deaths from Measles			NIL
Deaths from Whooping Cough			NIL
Deaths from Diarrhoea			NIL

Deaths

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	79	82	161
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			12.91
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			NIL
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			NIL
Deaths from Cancer			25

TABLE 1

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	6	9
" " Lung, Bronchus	4	1	5
" " Breast	-	1	1
" " Uterus	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	3	10
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	2
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	11	17	28
Coronary Disease, Angina	18	14	32
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	2	5
Other Heart Disease	10	21	31
Other Circulatory Disease	3	2	5
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	4	7	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-	2
All Other Accidents	4	3	7
Suicide	2	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals:	79	82	161

TABLE 2

INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Hyaline membrane	1 week	Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE 3

AGE GROUPS - HEART & CIRCULATORY DISEASES

	40 - 49		50 - 59		60 - 69		70 - 79		80 - 89		90 - 99		TOTAL	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	-	-	1	2	3	2	6	10	1	2	-	1	11	17
Coronary Thrombosis	1	1	1	-	4	5	8	7	4	1	-	-	18	14
Other Heart Disease	-	-	2	3	2	2	4	5	5	11	-	2	13	23
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	3	2

TABLE 4

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	3
Whooping Cough	5
Diphtheria	-
Measles	164
Pneumonia	8
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Food Poisoning	1

TABLE 5

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Other</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>	
Female	Age	Male	Age
2	27: 25 years	7	21: 27: 34: 42: 45: 61: 71: years.
		Female	
		1	28: years.



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A N N U A L R E P O R T

1 9 5 7.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to present my third Annual Report, in which are facts and comments relative to the activities of the Department during 1957.

The statistical section has been compiled separately, to indicate not only the work undertaken during the year, but also details of the staff, installations, vehicles, etc., of the Council and the variety of services as administered by you under the generalised heading of Public Health. I hope that these basic factual statements, which are confined to essentials, will prove helpful to both the long-serving and newly appointed members when discussing aspects of future policy. The whole of the Report has been divided into sections for easier reference in the following commentary.

In conclusion I should like to record my appreciation for the assistance I have received on many occasions from the Clerk of the Council, Mr. R. Rothwell, M.B.E., and Mr. O.M. Farrell, Engineer and Surveyor. I am also indebted to my assistant Mr. R. Lyall, M.A.P.H.I., and Miss J. Stokoe, for their administrative and clerical duties which has been of a high order and carried out with the utmost willingness and co-operation. To the members of the Council I would like to make this opportunity of expressing my thanks for their support and advice.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

J.A. STAIG

Public Health Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTHGENERAL

- (1) After applications were received from Parish Councils in coastal areas for the provision of Public Conveniences, this problem was fully considered by a Sub-Committee, whose findings were ultimately approved by the Council, that these facilities should be provided at Craster, Low Newton by the Sea, Embleton, Boulmer, and Low Hauxley; with additional accommodation to be installed at the existing conveniences in Alnmouth and Warkworth. The costs of this service was to be financed out of the General Rate. There is no doubt in my mind, that this policy will assist the cause of hygiene.
- (2) The litter problem was again the focus of attention at several meetings, and Parish Councils submitted a list of approximately 70 sites throughout the Area where it was thought litter bins would be a useful amenity. One firm was willing to supply the bins free, subject to their affixing small advertisements, and the Council felt that these would not detract to the amenities of the area. Planning permission was refused and a Public Inquiry, by the Minister, was held during October, whose decision is awaited.
- (3) Several meetings were attended at Newcastle regarding Smoke Abatement and the Clean Air Act, but these were discontinued as the Obligations under this Act are more applicable to the larger industrial areas.
- (4) Moveable Dwellings are causing a certain amount of misgivings, and, after a survey in November of the problem in this Area had disclosed that there were approximately a total of 29 sites, of which only 11 were properly licensed, with 319 (estimated) number of caravans, it was proposed to ask the local M.P. to urge the Government to comply with the representations of Local Government and other associations, to introduce new legislation and Byelaws for more effective control over caravans. In addition to the foregoing figures there are, on the Newtown Links, Warkworth, approximately 119 sites with 136 caravans (which will be nearly doubled in the summer). There are 31 Enforcement Notices outstanding in the aforementioned area. When a proposal for more caravans was made in the adjacent Holsay Area, a meeting was arranged between the Council, the County Planning Officer, and the Warkworth Parish Council regarding the general development of the whole area. The outcome of this meeting was, briefly, to the effect, that the acquisition by the Council of the Tens and Scribes at Newtown Links as an open space, should be rejected, and to press the County Planning Committee to take the necessary action to secure the removal of all caravans stationed thereon without planning permission. Appeals were dismissed for proposed caravan sites at High Newton and Chevelcy. The Minister sanctioned a site at Low Hauxley, following an appeal, for the use of 30 caravans, complete with modern ablution and sanitary facilities. A proposal for a site at Acton House was recommended for disapproval because of insufficiency of water supply. A Caravan Rally to be held in the following summer at Boulmer has been approved subject to hygienic conditions being observed. There are several of the existing sites which are, in my opinion, lacking in sufficient water supply and sewage disposal. These sites have increased in numbers of moveable dwellings, although within the boundaries of the existing licence, and otherwise generally observing the conditions as specified by the Council.

The sites, which have no licenses have been in existence many years and are probably outwith Planning control but these should be licensed under the Public Health Act, and regulated according to modern standards.

(5)

WATER SUPPLY

Further confirmation was received from the Northumberland County Council, that there was not likely to be any change of the date by which supplies should be available, in consequence of the adoption of a scheme to extract water from the River Coquet at Warkworth, in lieu of building a reservoir at Alwinton, near the head of the river, beyond Rothbury. The scarcity of piped water supply in this District makes it imperative that there is no undue delay at Local Government or Ministerial level to give effect to proposed schemes. The improvement of housing standards is undoubtedly being held in abeyance, and several villages and hamlets are experiencing restrictions of pressure because of lack of reserve, and there is not much satisfaction in answering enquiries with the phrase "awaiting the County Scheme". There was a dry spell in the early months which necessitated preliminary precautions to be taken to conserve the supplies and handbills were printed for a supply to be delivered; but, fortunately, the rain intervened.

(6)

The question of covering the Hillhead Reservoir at Shilbottle was referred to the Engineer and Surveyor for estimates, as there was apprehension of aerial contamination from birds, and litter from the nearby refuse tip. Consideration is still being given to proposals to instal a Water Softening Plant to the Embleton Supply. This is a good supply, and widely distributed, but it is exceedingly hard, requiring the installation of private softening plants in properties, or very frequent costly cleaning of back-boilers.

(7)

During the survey of camping sites, supplies were observed which did not give favourable impressions, and these were eventually sampled. The results were not satisfactory and there will have to be follow-up samples taken for the purpose of ascertaining if they contain B. Coli Type I.

(8)

The Water (Waste etc. Prevention) Byelaws were amended so that control could be effective to deal with protection against frost damage.

(9)

The R.A.F. Station at Boulmer was introduced to a new metered supply in February, from the Embleton and District Supply. R. Ions was appointed during April as attendant at the Swarland Pumping Station. Because of the narrow margin of safety with the existing submersible water pumps at Boreholes, authority was given for duplication of the pumps.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

(10)

Much interest was taken during the year regarding the augmentation of the sewerage throughout the District. After a survey at High Newtown, proposals were adopted for the improvement of the sewage disposal works and extension of outlet pipe to eliminate the gross fouling of Cloddy Burn. Approval was given for new Schemes, as outlined by the Consulting Engineers, in respect of Boulmer and Togston, and applications were forwarded to the Ministry. The estimated costs of these schemes, respectively, were £18,000 and £27,000. The excessive contamination of a pond and ditch north of Embleton was inspected by a Sub-Committee and there was unanimous approval that proceedings should be instituted forthwith regarding the submission of detailed plans for the construction of adequate sewerage and sewage disposal plant.

To alleviate the worry of the farmer, in whose fields this nuisance was recurring, a field trough with piped water was supplied and the ditch cleared. At Shilbottle the new sewage works were brought into operation towards the end of the year, and will abate the long standing nuisance of a contaminated stream by inadequacy of sewage disposal units. Complaints of contamination of the beach and insufficient sewerage at Low Hauxley, was referred to the Engineer & Surveyor to prepare a necessary scheme. I hope there will be no delay in implementing all these schemes for improving sanitation, as the rectification of the intolerable existing conditions due to obsolete or non-existent systems, is a matter of the utmost urgency. It was with regret that the resignation of J. Duns, Chargeman, at Alnmouth had to be accepted because of ill health. Mr. W. Darling, the Councils Drainer acted in a relief capacity, pending the re-organisation of duties and assistance by the appointment, full time, of J.W. Ternent.

(11) HOUSING

Priority has been given to this subject during the whole of the year in order that the programme, as submitted to the Ministry, could be implemented. The old dilapidated type of house was concentrated upon and the necessary action pursued under the Housing Acts, regarding closure of these unfit dwellings. Several of these are useful as Storage premises on farmlands, and Undertakings-not-to-let for human habitation were accepted. Encouragement has been given to owners to convert dry closets to the water carriage system and this worth-while scheme was made more attractive by augmenting the Grant from one of £10. per conversion, to that of £15. It is to be hoped that there will be an increase in the number of applications, although in many instances, there is still a lack of adequate sewerage. Following a re-assessment of housing conditions generally, there were found to be approximately 76 houses to be dealt with under Slum Clearance procedure; 80 houses occupied by tenants living in condemned houses and requiring alternative accommodation; 286 houses requiring major improvements, possibly under the Improvement Grant Scheme; and 261 houses due for minor repairs and sanitation. The improvement Grant Scheme for repairing houses is, in my opinion, particularly suitable for this area, as there is a preponderance of fairly sound houses which could, with advantage, be modernised. Not only would these sub-standard houses be saved from progressive decay but the residents would benefit by living in comfortable homes comparable to those enjoyed by suburban families. The landlords, who own several properties, are participating in this Scheme, and it would be a welcome sign if more of the owner/occupiers were forthcoming with proposals, but this might be due to financial reasons or insufficient publicity. Whenever visits are made to adaptable property, information is given on the advantages of improving same under this Scheme,

After discussing housing needs in the District it was agreed not to build any new houses during the ensuing financial year and to consider the question of formulating a re-housing programme to replace houses to be demolished. It was also resolved that Grants be given in respect of sub-standard houses, subject to a Rate Liability not exceeding 3d in the £ for the financial year ending 31st March, 1958 and that no owner receive, in the aggregate, more than £3,000.

Two Clearance Areas were proposed for Alnmouth village in respect of 10 properties, including an old derelict School. At Glanton there was a proposal for including four houses on a corner site in a Clearance Area but these were referred to a Sub-Committee for further consideration.

(12)

FOOD & DRUGS

Attention to the Food Hygiene Regulations was called for at several premises, during the course of visits for other purposes, and it will be necessary to devote more time to this work when opportunity exists, and the more pressing problems of housing are solved. The slaughterhouses, whilst not being up to modern standards, are kept reasonably clean, with the exception of one which is so restricted and badly sited, that major alterations are required. The figures for meat inspection give an indication of a more satisfactory higher percentage of meat inspection, than previously. Those animals which were not inspected, were killed either during holidays or emergency slaughter. The slaughterhouse owners who usually carry out emergency slaughtering as an obligation to the local farmers, have been warned to notify all such cases to this Department before removal of the carcasses from the slaughterhouse. It will be noted that there is still *Cysticercus Bovis* infecting some of the animals. It is difficult to ascertain the presence of this disease in a carcass when poor lighting prevails, as often happens in rural slaughterhouses, and in such circumstances inspection is delayed until daylight. All slaughtermen are fully licensed and the humane method of slaughtering is practised at each slaughterhouse. Each applicant for a slaughterhouse licence was furnished with a copy of the White Paper (Cmd.243) containing the recommended minimum standards for the construction, layout and equipment of Slaughterhouses which will be presented to Parliament for approval at a future date when Governmental decisions on Slaughterhouse Policy is decided. There were no samples of raw milk taken, as a proper insulated container is, in my opinion, essential for the transport of samples, at such a distance from the Laboratory, so that more accurate results can be obtained. I feel that this is a matter that should be re-considered.

(13)

PUBLIC CLEANSING

This service now provides for the removal of domestic refuse throughout the whole of the District, apart from a few isolated premises in remote areas. Collections are made weekly or fortnightly in the villages or monthly to the farming communities. It is pleasing to record that genuine complaints are few in number as most complaints received are due to re-occupation of houses after holidays, or during spells of adverse weather. This speaks highly of the conscientiousness of the employees, to whom the credit should go, for ensuring a reliable service, often under trying conditions, particularly when a vehicle breaks-down. There is no spare vehicle set aside for this purpose and it means that the staff must make extra efforts during the succeeding days so that the service can be brought quickly into normal routine. Another frustrating wastage of time occurs during periods of sickness when temporary staff has to be obtained. This entails enquiries at the Local Labour Exchange, who are helpful, then follows frantic searches throughout Alnwick and elsewhere for possible recruits and interviews, often terminating in disappointments which is understandable when one informs the person of the type of work involved. It is a tribute to the permanent staff that on occasions, when illness has occurred, that they have obtained the services of a relief before commencing work the following morning, to preserve continuity of work. The type of material collected nowadays shows a marked preponderance of paper in the form of cartons, wrappers etc. These materials not only cause a litter nuisance at the tips, but are bulky for transporting, necessitating extra loads.

The staff have requested householders and shopkeepers to reduce the quantity but there are always a few who will not co-operate, and vent their anger on the employees. It would be helpful, I think, for a small card to be issued by the staff to the recalcitrant persons, on the authority of the Council, drawing their attention to the necessity for eliminating or reducing the bulk of paper put out for collection. It would have the effect of removing the onus from the staff. The tips were again subjected to bulldozing treatment and they are slowly being given an appearance of control. The present permanent labour, (Mr. Ternent - appointed during the summer) which amounts to one man for one day per week, is insufficient during grass-cutting time, because of the large surface areas that are increasing rapidly each year. The quantity of refuse is filling several of these tips to such an extent, that in two or three years time, new tips will have to be sought. I should like to see more labour available, as a well kept tip is a good advertisement for the acquisition of new tips. There is also the problem of soil covering, and it may be that because there is very little soil to be obtained from other sources that we will have to revert to digging the ground prior to in-filling with refuse. It is not always practical to adopt this scheme as most of the tips are situated in disused quarries. The washing of vehicles by hosing is proving a boon, and not only presents the vehicles in a more hygienic state, but does not allow obnoxious odours to penetrate to the adjacent garage, where food vans are stored. There is heavy wear on the tyres, due chiefly to cuts from glass etc., and it might be advisable to instal a pneumatic pump so that pressures could be regularly checked. Paint and rust - preservatives are issued, for use on the vehicles when time permits. After the inadequacy of first aid equipment was brought to the notice of the Council it was agreed that each vehicle should be supplied with the requisite articles. A new refuse tip at Harchope Quarry was brought into operation, to alleviate the long hauls from the western part of the area.

(14)

PEST CONTROL

This service is accomplished by J. Sisterson, of the permanent staff, who has carried out his duties in a most able manner. He attends to both the clerical and inspectorial work and, with such a wide area to cover, he is fully employed. The sewerage systems are regularly treated each six months and the refuse tips are also treated every quarter. The general public often refer to these places as likely sources of rodent infestation and it is advantageous to remind them that they receive systematic control. Whilst rodents can very seldom be eradicated, nevertheless the rodent population can be kept under control by such methods. At the completion of treatments to private premises, the owners are advised regarding rodent proofing. Block inspection, and treatment if necessary, is undertaken on receipt of all complaints. In many of the older parts of villages, where there is congestion, and possible old obsolete drainage systems, it is difficult to feel that treatments have been entirely satisfactory.

(15)

FACTORIES

The Register of Factories was revised with the assistance of the Factory Inspector, so that both sets of records would coincide. Two Certificates were issued to Factories which had complied with the requirements of the Fire Prevention Department of the Northumberland County Fire Brigade.

(16)

PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

The Petroleum-Spirit (Conveyance by Road) Regulations, which were adopted, came into operation on 1st July, 1957, and all licence holders were notified of their obligations regarding precautions to be taken in connection with the delivery of petroleum spirit and the necessary records to be kept for periods of not less than six months. The Home Office issued a Model Code of Principles of Construction and Licensing Conditions and these were also approved during the latter part of the year. The Model Code was similar in most instances to the practice previously adopted in this Area. Arrangements have been made with the Fire Prevention Department for an inspection and report on all installations. The testing of tanks will be unavoidably delayed, because of shortage of facilities, but these will be attended to during the following months. The additional work will involve a considerable time being spent on supervision, but if it will reduce or eliminate fire hazards, then it will be well spent. The records of these installations are being revised to correspond with those of the Fire Prevention Department to avoid possible ambiguity.

(17)

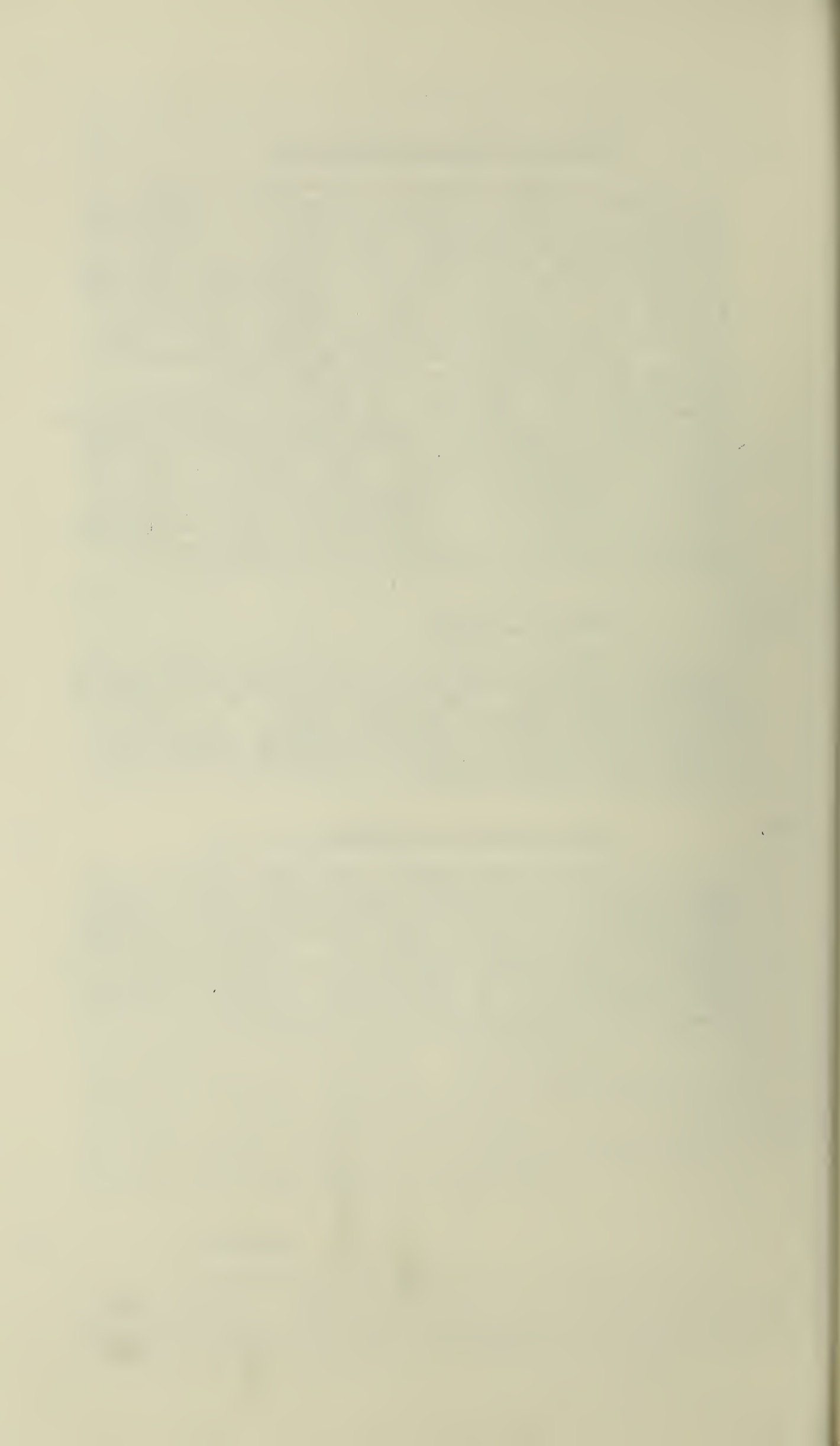
NAMING OF STREETS

Further progress was made in this work and the villages of Swarland and Glanton were added to the list of villages completed. The Parish Council of Longhoughton was interviewed regarding proposed names. The time devoted to this task is restricted because of priority given to health matters, and the remaining villages will be dealt with in due course.

(18)

BEACH SIGNS AND LIFEBUOYS.

Alnmouth was supplied with these facilities the previous year, and because of more facilities, the Council have decided to extend these warning signs and lifebuoys to the whole of the coast line, at sites where the Parish Councils consider these applicable. After consultation with the Parish Councils concerned these appliances will be installed, prior to the ensuing summer months. Apart from impairment, due to the elements, there was very little damage to the signs or lifebuoys at Alnmouth.



SECTION - 1.PUBLIC HEALTH
(Sanitary Circumstances.)

<u>TOTAL VISITS DURING YEAR RE:-</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Houses - Housing Defects	51
Houses - Other Nuisances	7
Other Premises	2
<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT</u>	
Sec. 39 Drainage, Cesspools, etc.	203
" 45 W.C.'s - nuisance	1
" 46 W.C.'s - workshops etc.	2
" 47 W.C.'s - conversions	55
" 75 Dustbins	3
" 79 Accumulations - Noxious	6
" 80 Removal of Manure	1
" 83b Verminous Premises	3
" 87 Public Conveniences	36
<u>STATUTORY NUISANCES</u>	
Sec. 92(a) Structural Defects	18
" 92(c) Accumulations, Deposits	9
" 138 Water Supply	18
<u>PART V</u>	
Infectious Disease	4
Food Poisoning	4
Sec. 259 Watercourses, ditches, etc.	13
" 268 Tents, Vans, Sheds	55
<u>FOOD & DRUGS</u>	
Butchers	9
Ice Cream	2
Meat Preparation Rooms	11
Public Houses, Inns, Hotels, etc.	4
Slaughterhouses	13
School Canteens	2
Kippering Sheds	7
Other Food Premises	2
<u>MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION</u>	
Shops etc.	10
Slaughterhouses	547
<u>MILK & DAIRIES</u>	
Distributors, dealers, Pasteurisers, etc.	10
<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>	73
Interviews	151
<u>FACTORIES</u>	
Factories (Mechanical)	5
" (Non Mechanical)	4
<u>PEST CONTROL</u>	
Dwelling Houses	3
Business Premises	4
<u>CLEANSING SERVICE</u>	
Collection	57
Disposal (Tips etc.)	88
<u>HOUSING ACT 1936/57</u>	
Houses inspected	78
Repairs (Sec. 9)	10
Demolitions (Sec. 16)	57
Clearance Area (Sec. 42)	55
Certificates of Disrepair	4

Continued overleaf/

<u>PETROLEUM REGULATIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> 22
<u>BEACH SIGNS</u>	14
<u>STREET NAMES</u>	24
<u>MEETINGS, LECTURES, ETC.</u>	8
<u>ANIMALS ON FORESHORE</u>	9

PUBLIC HEALTH

Number of Public Conveniences	2
" " Part-time Caretakers	2
Moveable Dwellings - Total Licensed sites	11
" " - " Unlicensed sites	18
" " - " New licences for year	1
(The above figures exclude Newtown Links)	

SECTION - 2

FOOD & DRUGS

Licences or Registrations

Slaughterhouses	7
Slaughtermen	18
Ice Cream Premises	36
" " Manufacturers	Nil
Milk (Special Designations)	
Tuberculin Tested Raw	6
Pasteurised	18
Sterilised	7
Distributors	20

FOOD INSPECTION

Sec.9. Canned Goods	-	303 tins
Meat	-	1462 lbs
Milk		37 tins

SECTION - 3.

HOUSING

General

Total No. of Houses in District	4119
New Houses (1957) - Local Authority	Nil
" " " - Other Housing Authorities	6
" " " - Private Persons	15

Housing Act 1936/57

Houses Demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
" " not in Clearance Areas	2
Unfit Houses closed - Sec. 16 procedure	4
" " Licensed for temporary use	2
Houses permanently discontinued as dwellings	3

Improvement Grants 1949.

(1)	Applications submitted to L.A. (1957)	76
(2)	Applications received	4
(3)	Applications approved	21
(4)	Total number approved since inception of scheme	159
(5)	Hill Farming & Livestock Rearings Act (1946/54) for the year 1957.	3

Public Health Act 1936.

No. of conversions to water closets	25
No. of applications	25

Review of Existing Unfit Houses (1957)

Total number condemned	167
" " occupied	73
" " empty	81
" " partly demolished	13

Housing (Repairs & Rent Act) 1957

No of applications	2
" " " granted	1

S E C T I O N - 4.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1949

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

	<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspect-</u> <u>ions</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>
(i)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	2	2
(ii)	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	44	16	1
(iii)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	1 (Bldg. Sites)	2	Nil
	TOTAL	51	20	3

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND - 6

Fire Escapes - Section 34

Two Certificates were issued to factories which had complied with the requirements of the Fire Prevention Department of the Northumberland County Fire Brigade.

SECTION - 5.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1957.

	(1) Local Authority	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses)	(3) All other Business Premises	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2)& (3)	(5) Agricul- tural
1. No. of Properties	39	3244	350	3633	813
2. No. of Properties inspected					
(a) Notifications		70	11	81	Nil
(b) Survey	39	45	26	110	148
(c) Otherwise		40	10	50	14
3. Total Inspection & Re-Inspections	54	170	47	271	182
4. No. of Properties Infested					
(a) Rats (Major	10	12	4	26	4
(Minor	25	80	3	108	54
(b) Mice (Major		10	4	14	5
(Minor		8		8	19
5. No. of Infested Properties	35	110	9	154	1
6. Total Treatment and Re-Treatments	99	110	9	218	-
7. No. of Sec. 4 Notices	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. No. of "Block" Controls		19		19	

SECTION - 6.

CLEANSING SERVICE

Staff	8	
Vehicles (side loading - 7 cu. yds.) -	4	
Districts	4	
Refuse Tips	10	

SECTION - 7

MEAT

	Cattle Excluding Cows		Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed (if Known)	986	Nil		48	2365	396	Nil
Number Inspected	883	Nil		23	1885	295	Nil
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil		1	3	3	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	243	Nil		Nil	15	19	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than cysticerci	28%	-		4.4%	.8%	6.7%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>							
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	Nil		Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.5%	Nil		Nil	Nil	.3%	-
<u>Cysticercosis - Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned</u>							
	6						
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2						
Generalised and Totally Condemned	1						

MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1957.

Disease or Condition	Whole Carcasses				Part Carcasses				Weight in lbs.
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	
Abscesses					6				35
Actinomycosis					3				75
Arthritis						1	1		68
Angiomata					2				22
Cirrhosis					47				426
Cyst. Bovis	1				6				771
Entero-Toxaemia		1							45
Fascioliasis					151				1245
Fevered & Ill Set		1	1						175
Injuries & Bruising					3	5			236
Immaturity				1					34
Johnes Disease					1				12
Oedema		1	1						168
Parasites					19		1		83
Pericarditis					1				5
Pneumonia			1		4	9	17		213
Tuberculosis					14		1		202
Total	1	3	3	1	257	15	20		3815

S E C T I O N - 8

STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

Villages not commenced

Acklington	Lesbury
Boulmer	Longhoughton
Christon Bank	Newton (High & Low)
Craster	Powburn
Denwick	Rock
Edlingham	Rennington
Eglingham	Swarland
Embleton	South & North Charlton
Felton	

BEACH SIGNS & LIFEBUOYS

No. of Signs	=	3	(Alnmouth)
No. of Lifebuoys	=	3	(Alnmouth)

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

No. of Licensed Installations	=	89
No. of New Licences	=	3

